



WHIG and Courier

BY BOUTELLE BROTHERS.

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Boutelle Brothers, and communications intended
for publication should be addressed: "Editor of
Whig and Courier."

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1897.

A Great Editor.

In the death of Charles A. Dana, American journalism loses one of its particularly bright and shining lights. Mr. Dana was one of the few remaining editors whose personality constituted a marked feature of his journalistic work. Of late years this feature of journalism has become practically eliminated until now very few people outside the newspaper offices know the editorial writers. Whether this more modest departure is calculated to increase the influence of the press upon public opinion is open to grave doubt, one of the most apparent objections being in the seeming tendency toward irresponsibility in the place of sober consideration. There has been no question, however, concerning the personality of Mr. Dana in the New York Sun office. One never reads the Sun without associating it with Dana, and to mention the one was to suggest the other. His controlling genius that shaped a destiny of paper in his news, editorial and literary departments, and through which he did his work that the Sun stands out pre-eminent of the best newspapers in the country.

People differed with Mr. Dana politically and many thought he was too cautious in his treatment of men and events; the common testimony was that he was always a bright and instructive paper. More than this, the very men who often criticized the editorialism of the Sun always wanted to see what Mr. Dana had to say concerning questions of public discussion. In this at least they testified to the force of his personality. He was a man who, having made up his mind held to a course with a pertinacity that could be shaken, and at the same time was fearless in his independence, a fact manifested in the last National campaign and more recently in the municipal contest in Greater New York.

Mr. Dana was born in New Hampshire in 1810. He entered Harvard College at age of twenty and developed into a student, but as his expense failed him he was obliged to leave prior to graduation. In 1842 he joined the Brook Farm Community at Westbury, Mass., and when that ideal was abandoned he worked on a Boston paper for a short time and then went to the New York Tribune. He went to Europe at the outbreak of the French revolution as a newspaper correspondent and on his return became chief assistant to Horace Greeley. During the war he was Secretary Stanton's assistant and rendered valuable services. After a brief newspaper experience in Chicago he again went to New York in 1853, where he organized the Sun Printing and Publishing Company, the success of which has been due to his personal effort and directed. He has written a great deal aside from his newspaper work and was editor of Appleton's Encyclopedia.

Mr. Dana's death creates a vacancy in American journalism that will remain filled.

Trade Possible by Protection.
BOSTON IRON TRADE CLUB, ETC.

According to the latest advice from America, the Yankees are determined to secure their share of the world's trade in iron and steel, and for this purpose six manufacturers in Pittsburgh have formed a company called the Export Iron & Steel Company, the objects of which are to enter and seek trade in the British markets. The officers of the company have been openly named at Pittsburgh. The capital has been opened at \$100,000, and sufficient backing has been obtained to assure any amount as soon as the increase of the business demands it. A London agent has been appointed, and an attempt will be made to do business in India, South America and Japan.

The Americans are an enterprising body of men, and as a rule they do things hand in hand so that it well becomes every iron and steel firm of this country to watch Mr. Dana's movements very closely. It will perhaps be easier to checkmate early, before he holds anything like a strong position on the board. We know well what they can do; if we have only to look at the past trade. In this branch they are a very short time, built up a huge industry, struck our Welsh friends practically out of their market, and have now usurped their leadership towards establishing an export trade in iron plates.

(London Hardware, Metals and Machinery.)

A contemporary in a very plausible tone wants to know what South Wales will do with its plate when the American iron trade has gone. "We have been asking this question, or variations of it, for many years of your paper, but have never had a practical response. It writes" and we scarcely hope for one at this late stage of the melancholy history — we might say ruin — of the Welsh plate trade." The term "ruin" is rather uncalled for. If the term is ended by American action we should rather call it "ruin," the first blow having been administered by that McKinley tariff and the mortal stroke by the Dingley bill. The Welsh makers could not help this, and it is not their fault; if the American works, brand new in all their appointments, turn out plates a little cheaper than the Welsh mills, should the Americans get their share of the market.

With all this it is surprising that the Welshmen can make any struggle at all. They are doing so, and indeed about 21,000 tons abroad last month against 22,723 tons in the same month last year, which does not look like turning up the sponge. Of course, the loss of the American trade is a great disaster, but come in the natural order of things, and must be accepted patiently.

(From the same publication.)

The loss of our United States trade, which has from the most important of our markets next to Australia become one of the most insignificant, tells heavily upon business in hardware and cutlery, and fully accounts for the reduction of values for last month as compared with August, 1896. With most markets trade is good, increase being shown in a majority of cases, viz., to Russia, Sweden and Norway, Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, Spain, Portugal, West Indies, Argentina, South Africa (now our second best market) and British North America, which is about on par with Russia, and much below Germany and Belgium, a very different position from that which it once held. The losses shown, in addition to the United States, are Chile, Brazil, India and Australia, besides which a reduction shows in shipments to other countries.

(From the same publication.)

One result of the Dingley tariff will doubtless be the disappearance of whole piece Axminster and other pile carpets in the States. Under the Wilson bill three goods paid a duty of 40 per cent, while under the Dingley bill they

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